

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend claim 12 as follows.

1. (Previously Amended) An orally administered agent free of a bioadhesive layer, comprising a drug-containing layer and a water-swelling gel-forming layer, wherein said water-swelling gel-forming layer is provided as an outermost layer of said orally administered agent.

2. (Original) The orally administered agent according to claim 1, wherein said orally administered agent is a film-shaped preparation.

3. (Original) The orally administered agent according to claim 2, wherein said water-swelling gel-forming layer contains a water-swelling gel-forming agent and a film-forming agent.

4. (Original) The orally administered agent according to claim 3, wherein said water-swelling gel-forming agent is a cross-linked carboxyvinyl polymer, and said film-forming agent is a polyvinyl alcohol.

5. (Original) The orally administered agent according to claim 4, wherein said cross-linked carboxyvinyl polymer is a carboxyvinyl polymer cross-linked by a polyvalent metal compound.

6. (Previously Amended) The orally administered agent according to claim 3, wherein the content of said water-swellaable gel-forming agent in said water-swellaable gel-forming layer is 15 to 70 wt%, and the content of said film-forming agent in said water-swellaable gel-forming layer is 30 to 85 wt%.

7. (Previously Amended) The orally administered agent according to claim 1, wherein said water-swellaable gel-forming layer can mask the taste and/or smell of a drug contained in said drug-containing layer.

8. (Previously Amended) The orally administered agent according to claim 1, wherein said drug-containing layer contains an edible polymer as a base.

9. (Original) The orally administered agent according to claim 8, wherein said edible polymer is cellulose and/or a cellulose derivative.

10. (Previously Amended) The orally administered agent according to claim 8, wherein the content of said edible polymer in said drug-containing layer is at least 20 wt%.

11. (Previously Amended) An orally administered agent/supporting substrate complex comprising the orally administered agent according to any one of claims 1 to 10, and a supporting substrate that supports the orally administered agent, wherein said orally administered agent is provided on said supporting substrate either directly or via an intermediate layer.

12. (Currently Amended) The orally administered agent/supporting substrate complex according to claim ~~11~~ 1, wherein said supporting substrate has a gripping part and a mouth-inserting part, and said orally administered agent is provided on said mouth-inserting part.

13. (Previously Added) An orally administered agent free of a bioadhesive layer comprising a drug-containing layer and a water-swelling gel-forming layer, wherein said water-swelling gel-forming layer is provided as an outermost layer of said orally administered agent, and wherein the agent can be swallowed without getting stuck in a trachea.